



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Fifth Session  
30 November – 1 December 2020 (Part I)

C-25/NAT.69  
30 November 2020  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**PARAGUAY**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RIGOBERTO GAUTO VIELMAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson of the Conference,  
Mr Director-General,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to address this Conference on behalf of the Republic of Paraguay.

First of all, Mr Chairperson, I would like to wish you success in the delicate duty that has been assigned to you at the head of this Conference, and I express the complete support of my delegation for the success of the mission with which we have tasked the States Parties at this Convention. I will also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Ambassador Kostov for his tireless efforts during his Chairmanship of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Likewise, I would like to recognise the care and dedication of the Director-General and the personnel of the Technical Secretariat working towards the objectives of the Organisation.

We are aware that the world is in the midst of the greatest health crisis of the century and, for this reason, we welcome the efforts that have been made to find solutions and agreements making it possible to hold this first part of this session of the Conference today.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction is the most successful disarmament treaty and eliminates an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. The Government of Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to the international efforts towards international disarmament and the non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction; we wish to express our full support for the tasks undertaken by the OPCW, while underscoring its leading role in this area, and its commitment to the search for a world without chemical weapons and global peace, in full accordance with Goal 16 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 16).

Paraguay is conscious of its obligations to the commitment to the search for international peace and security. As a sign of this commitment, Paraguay participates in international forums on international disarmament and non-proliferation, and is a signatory to the most relevant international treaties in this area.



We value the activities carried out by the Organisation to support the strengthening of national capacities, and we welcome the various courses and workshops that have made it possible for Paraguay officials to participate and receive training, while recalling that cooperation and training for human resources, as well as the exchange of good practices, are indispensable when it comes to the promotion of the peaceful use of chemistry.

For this reason, we wish to once again reaffirm Paraguay's commitment to multilateralism, which is understood as the most effective tool in resolving the challenges of our time, in which the OPCW has a fundamental role due to its mandate to put an end to the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons, in addition to preventing their re-emergence, achieving the elimination of such weapons existing today, and eradicating the threat of chemical warfare from the world in the search for international peace and security.

A mandate of such scope demands taking adequate action. In this regard, Paraguay supports the Conference's approval of the Programme and Budget, as recommended by the Executive Council.

Advancing towards a world free of chemical weapons is imperative, and complete, irreversible, and verified disarmament is the only truly effective and valid guarantee against their use or the threat of their use. Paraguay reiterates its absolute commitment to global disarmament and expresses its vehement condemnation of the use of weapons of mass destruction in any possible scenario, for any reason.

The use and the threat of use of chemical weapons constitutes a crime against humanity, a violation of international law and international humanitarian law, and impinges upon the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Paraguay wishes to express its concern surrounding the cases of use of chemicals as a weapon. We reaffirm our condemnation of the use of this type of weapon anytime, anywhere, under any circumstance, and by anyone, and we urge the international community to ensure that those responsible for such acts are held accountable in accordance with the standards of international law.

A firm response from the OPCW to today's challenges is crucial; its efficient action depends on the commitment and the resolve of the Member States. For this reason, Paraguay calls upon the States Parties to remain open to dialogue in the search for a consensus for the decision-making process at the heart of the Organisation; it wishes to reiterate its full confidence in and support for the work carried out by the OPCW, reaffirming its commitment to continue to work towards the fundamental objective that we all share: achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

I kindly request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Conference and published on the OPCW's official website.

Thank you.

- - - 0 - - -